National Canners Association

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Information Letter

For N. C. A. Members

Membership Letter No. 94. December 20, 1924.

Freight Rate Hearing.
Pending Legislation.
Adjustment of Charges Made by Railroads and Other Interstate Carriers.
Foreign Demand for Canned Foods.
Conference on Distribution Problems.
Navy Department Requests Bids on Canned Sardines.
Important Antitrust Decision.

Freight Rate Hearing.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has announced a hearing on the proposal to revise the class rates in Eastern Trunk Line territory.

The hearing will be held in Washington on February 4, 1925, and this Association will be represented. Any canner interested is welcome to attend the hearing.

Pending Legislation.

Representative Barbour of California has just introduced a bill (H. R. 10,767) which provides that the Secretary of Agriculture may inspect the manufacture of any canned food products upon request from any canner and at his expense. The canned foods so inspected may bear a certificate or mark of inspection, upon request of the canner.

Representative Williams of Michigan, has introduced a bill (H. R. 10,593) providing for the creation of a Federal Marketing Board to encourage the formation of cooperative marketing associations and to develop efficient and economic distribution and marketing of agricultural products. This bill specifically includes in its provision, processed or manufactured articles prepared from agricultural products.

Among the duties of the Marketing Board provided for in this bill are - to establish cooperative clearing houses and terminal market associations; to promote and establish a uniform system of accounts and audits for such associations; to establish and promulgate standards and grades for agricultural products; to provide inspection of agricultural products for which standards and grades have been established; to arbitrate in case of disputes; to investigate all matters affecting the production, distribution, and consumption of agricultural products and make recommendations to other departments.

Adjustment of Charges Made by Railroads and Other Interstate Carriers.

On account of a recent enquiry received at this office, we believe that many canners will be interested in having their attention called to an act passed at the last session of Congress (S. 2704), which provides that all actions by carriers to recover charges from shippers must be begun within three years from the time the undercharge was made.

Mo

ov
L
w
I
t
w

c

c
F
f

e
i

h
C
p
t

A
r
U

t
s
p

All complaints against carriers for the recovery of damages, not based on overcharges, must be filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission within two years. Legal action by shippers for recovery of overcharges against carriers shall be begun within three years or complaint may be filed with the Commission within that time. In case claim for overcharges has been presented to the carrier in writing within that period, the period will be extended to include six months from the time notice was given by the carrier to the claimant that the claim was disallowed.

Foreign Demand for Canned Foods.

The United States Department of Commerce reports enquiries for certain canned foods from the following countries:

Austria, canned foods generally; Chile, canned salmon in one-pound tall cans; China, canned foods generally; England, corn on the cob and canned fruit; France, canned foods generally; Germany, canned foods generally; Italy, canned foods generally; Scotland, canned foods generally; and South Africa, canned fish.

More specific information may be secured by addressing the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce either here in Washington or at one of its branch offices in many of the large cities.

Conference on Distribution Problems.

A conference of retail and wholesale distributors of merchandise will be held under the auspices of the Department of Domestic Distribution of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States at Washington on January 14 and 15, 1925. Important problems of distribution are to be considered and investigations started with a view to possible reduction of present distribution costs.

Navy Department Requests Bids on Canned Sardines.

Under schedule 3056, the Navy Department asks for bids on 30,000 lbs. of American sardines, bids to be opened January 6, 1925. Any canner interested in submitting a bid should apply to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., asking for copies of schedule 3056.

Important Antitrust Decision.

The District Court at Denver, Colorado has just entered a sweeping dissolution decree against the Cement Securities Company and subsidiaries, charging that, in restraint of trade in Portland cement throughout the Rocky Mountain States, it has violated the Sherman Antitrust Law.

Among other things which the decree prohibits the companies concerned from doing are:

"To establish uniform mill base prices for their product;
"To establish arbitrary freight basing points other than the points from which shipments are actually made;
"To sell their product f.o.b. point of delivery exclusively;
"To establish a uniform rate of discount or uniform terms for payments of bills within a specified period of time;
"To fix or suggest the amount of commission or profit dealers should be required to make in sales of cement;

"To regulate or limit the amount of production of cement or the amount of stock to be kept on hand;
"To limit the time within which quotations on cement must be accepted and deliveries made, and to refuse to grant extensions in time of deliveries;
"To make changes in prices effective as of the date quotations are written to avoid "price tipping";
"To guarantee prices against decline;
"To divide territory and/or allot business."

Agricultural Conference.

The next meeting of the new Agricultural Commission, appointed by President Coolidge, has been set for January 5. Among the problems to be taken up for consideration are cooperative marketing and finance as it affects agriculture.

x x x x x x x